

FB Shellfish Region-Municipal Joint Board
Meeting Minutes December 3, 2013 Sullivan Town Office

Board members Present: Chair Dick Fennelly, Lamoine; Mike Hodgkins, Trenton, Gary Edwards, Sullivan; Dana Smith, Franklin; Dan Bossert, Hancock; Steve Beathem, Ellsworth

Board members absent: Craig Clement

DMR, Hannah Annis


Conservation Committee members: Joe Porada Jim Norris.


City of Ellsworth: Teri Dane


Meeting convened at 6:30 pm.


Item 1. [Minutes of the March 11, 2013](#) were reviewed. Motion by Dana, second by Mike, passed 5-0-1

Item 2. The Conservation Committee had asked the Board to review and act on several recommendation to the ordinance and conservation closure plan.

 A. Revise residency duration requirement from 1 year to 6 months. It was moved by Steve and seconded by Dana to make this change.

 B. Change closing dates for all winter conservation areas from 30 June to 31 March. Winter digging areas will now be open from December 1 to march 31. Motion by Steve, second by Dana-all in favor.

 C. Establish Conservation Closure from the Trenton Seaplane Ramp South to the red post near the Trenton Bridge(exact parameters as the current State closure). This closure is in anticipation of the state opening the area as septic issues are cleaned up. (When and if the state removes the bacterial closure in that area, the Shellfish Committee shall draft opening dates and possible rotation.) Motion by Dick, second by Steve-all in favor.

 D. Establish Conservation Closure for Thad's Cove and Berry Cove in Lamoine to allow resource recovery from heavy digging. Both areas are excellent recruitment and growing areas and have large amounts of juvenile clams. Areas are planned for closure, after survey, from 1April to 30 September. At the end of September, the areas will be resurveyed and decision will be made as to actions we will take to open the areas, leave them closed longer or establish a rotation.

Board action after considerable discussion about introducing more survey work into the planning for these types of closure:

Thad's Cove- motion by Dick, second by Mike-all in favor to: do a stock survey in the spring, close the area for six months, do another survey at that time and form a recommendation for the board to take further action at that time.

Berry Cove- There was discussion about the uniqueness of this area due to the diversity of opinions about closures and the importance of the cove to some recreational and commercial diggers. On a motion by Steve and a second by Gary it was voted to table the request and send it back to the Conservation Committee for further discussion and a new recommendation.

 E. Revise Raccoon Cove, Lamoine Conservation Schedule to as follows:

a.) Marlboro Beach side- OPEN 1 December through 31 March

b.) Meadow Point Side- OPEN 1 April through 30 June

c.) Marlboro Beach side- OPEN 1 July through 30 September

d.) Meadow Point side- OPEN 1 October through 31 December

This essentially creates a 6 month rotation. On a motion by Gary, second by Dick the change was approved 6-0.

Item 3 Recreational Digging- The conservation committee had asked the board to review this policy. While recreational digging is an important part of the program, allowing recreational diggers to dig in closed areas is creating an enforcement problem. "Peck Pirates" are using it to dig illegal amounts of clams. After much discussion the following changes were approved on a motion by Dana and a second by Dick 6-0.

🥜 A. Recreational harvesters may not dig in closed areas.

🥜 B. Recreational harvesters may not dig from ½ hour after sunset until ½ hour before sunrise.

These changes will go into effect with the new license season July 1, 2014

**Note: There is no mention of this in the ordinance, making it a policy that does not need an amendment.

Item 4 Future planning

Gary started a discussion about future planning by asking "Are we looking at the big picture when we do closures and/or other conservation projects? We are doing a number of good things but are they being tied together. It was suggested that we look for some partners and funding to put together a master plan that could be used to apply for funding to support our goals.

Gary agreed to look for large grant opportunities and would work on a small grant for a follow-up project to the 610 project that Paul is working on if a work plan is developed.

Item 5. Teri Dane passed out a preliminary financial report on the program. Indications are that we are operating within budget.

Item 6. There was a brief discussion about enforcement issues. Dick will contact the City of Ellsworth to follow up on the discussion.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary Edwards". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with a large 'G' and 'E'.

Gary Edwards
Secretary pro temp